

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 NEA-10 IO-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

EB-07 AF-06 SAJ-01 /098 W

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R 261405Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 486

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL MUNICH

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

CINCPAC

CINCEUR

USIA WASHDC

DIA WASHDC

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AFB

CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG

CSAF WASHDC//AFINA/SSA

CNO WASHDC///OP-614

DA WASHDC//DAMI-FII

OSD/ISA/EUR WASHDC

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FOR POLADS
USIA FOR IOP, IBS, IPS, IEU

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, CH, UR, AO
SUBJ: SOVIET PRESS SUMMARY - FEB 26

1. SUMMARY. SOVIET PRESS COVERAGE OF THE OUTSIDE WORLD CONTINUES TO BE SCANTY AS IT DEVOTES MOST OF ITS ATTENTION TO THE CPSU PARTY CONGRESS NOW IN DAILY SESSION. FIRST SEVERAL PAGES OF PRAVDA, FOR EXAMPLE, DEVOTED TO SPEECHES AT THE CONGRESS. HIGHLIGHTS OF WHAT LITTLE THERE IS:

-- PRAVDA AND IZVESTIYA REPORT THE RESULTS FROM NEW HAMPSHIRE, WITH IZVESTIYA QUESTIONING THEIR SIGNIFICANCE, WHILE PRAVDA CREDITS THEM WITH CONSIDERABLE PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE;

-- ALL OF THE CENTRAL PRESS SAYS THAT PEKING IS USING THE NIXON TRIP IN AN ATTEMPT TO TURN U.S. FOREIGN POLICY ONTO A MORE ANTI-SOVIET TRACK;

-- AND PRAVDA REPORTS THAT GULF OIL IS TO BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS WITH ANGOLA;

--SIGNIFICANT FOREIGN POLICY ASPECTS OF CONGRESS SPEECHES WILL BE REPORTED SEPARATELY. END SUMMARY.

2. U.S. PRAVDA AND IZVESTIYA BOTH REPORT RESULTS OF THE PRIMARY IN NEW HAMPSHIRE. IZVESTIYA SAYS THAT THE VOTE IS OF "SYMBOLIC SIGNIFICANCE,BUT CERTINLY DOES NOT ALWAYS COINCIDE WITH THE REALS SITUATION." PRAVDA, ON THE OTHER HAND, SAYS THAT THE PRIMARY IS OF "NOT INCONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE" IN DETERMINING THE NATION'S MODD AND WILL EXERT PSYCHOLOGICAL INFLUENCE ON THE OUTCOME OF FURTHER PRIMARIES. IZVESTIYA WRITES THA BECAUSE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE'S CONSERVATIVE TRADITIONS, OBSERVERS EXPECTED NEARLY A TIE VOTE ON THE REPUBLICAN TICKET--AND THAT THE PRESIDENT "EDGED" REAGAN 51 TO 49. IZVESTIYA ADDS UNCLASSIFIED

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THAT THE PRESIDENT'S ADVISORS ARE SAYING THAT THE VOTE IS "NOT OF CRITICAL IMPORTANCE." IT REPORTS THAT GOVERNOR CARTER WON A PLURALITY AMONG DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES, AND DESCRIBES HIM AS A "SOUTHERNER FROM AMONG THE LIBERALS, WHO OPPOSES GEORGE WALLACE, A NEW FACE ON THE NATIONAL SCENE AND ONE DRAWING INCREASING ATTENTION. HIS VIEWS ARE NOT WELL DEFINED,AND ARE ON OCCASION CONTRADICTORY, BUT HE IS DISCOVERINGTHE ABILITY TO "SELL HIMSELF' TO

THE MASS VOTERS." UDALL, WHO IZVESTIYA NOTES WAS SECOND AMONG THE DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES, IS CHARACTERIZED AS RELYING ON THE "DEMOCRATIC CENTER" OF THAT PARTY. PRAVDA IS MUCH LESS GENEROUS IN ITS COMMENTARY, RESTRICTING ITS REPORT TO A LARGE DEGREE SIMPLY TO NAMING THE CANDIDATES AND GIVING THE VOTING RESULTS. ON OTHER ISSUES, IZVESTIYA REPORTS WITHOUT COMMENT THE CONCLUSION OF THE SECRETARY'S TRIP TO LATIN AMERICA. IZVESTIYA ALSO SAYS THAT "REPRESSION" IS NOW BEGINNING AGAINST THOSE AMERICANS WHO SPOKE OUT AGAINST THE ACTIVITIES OF THE CIA--IN THIS CASE DANIEL SCHORR. THE PAPER DESCRIBES SCHORR'S DIFFICULTIES WITH CONGRESS, AND ADDS THAT CONGRESS DECIDED NOT TO PUBLISH THE REPORT THAT SCHORR LEAKED BECAUSE OF CIA AND "WHITE HOUSE" PRESSURE. PRAVDA REPORTS WITHOUT COMMENT WILLIAM SCRANTON'S NOMINATION TO THE U.N., AND THE HOLDING OF A REGULAR PLENARY TON THE SAL TALKS FEBRUARY 25.

3. NIXON'S TRIP TO PEKING. ALL OF THE CENTRAL PRESS CARRIES A TASS ITEM REPORTING EX-PRESIDENT NIXON'S MEETING WITH MAO AND HUA. THE ITEM SAYS THAT THE DEPARTMENT HAS DENIED REPORTS THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT ASSISTED IN ARRANGING THE VISIT. IT CONTENDS THAT "THE AMERICAN PRESS" IS WRITING THAT PEKING IS ATTEMPTING TO USE NIXON'S VISIT FOR NEW ATTACKS ON DETENTE AND "ON CERTAIN ASPECTS OF AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY." THE WASHINGTON POST IS CITED AS SAYING THAT PEKING HAS MISCALCULATED IF IT THINKS THAT IT CAN TURN U.S. POLICY INTO A MORE PRO-PEKING AND ANTI-MOSCOW DIRECTION.

4. ANGOLA. PRAVDA REPORTS WITHOUT COMMENT THAT GULF OIL HAS ANNOUNCED THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAS APPROVED RENEWAL OF ITS NEGOTIATIONS WITH ANGOLA ON RESTARTING OPERATIONS IN THAT COUNTRY.
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